Narwana are already connected by BG route via Jakhal (74 kms.). Chandigarh & Hissar are linked by BG route viz Narwana-Jakhal.

(b) Conversion of Rewari-Hissar-Bhatinda MG line to BG has been taken up and Bhatinda-Hissar (157 kms) is targetted for completion during 93-94. On completion of conversion of the section, Hissar and Sirsa will also be linked by BG route via Bhatinda and Rajpura as well.

(c) It will depend on the offering of traffic on completion of conversion work.

(d) This can be determined only after a survey is taken up for which there is no proposal at present.

Import of Crude and Petroleum Products

*157, SHRI MD. SALIM :
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have earmarked over 6 billion dollars for the import of crude and petroleum products to meet internal demand;

(b) if so, whether this step would not put pressure on the scarce foreign exchange reserve; and

(c) in what manner Government would manage this position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) to (c) Since the Unification of the Exchange Rate with effect from 1-3-1993 there is no mechanism of earmarking of foreign exchange for import of any item including for import of crude and petroleum products. The Indian Oil Corporation which is the main canalising agency for imports of both crude and petroleum products is expected to obtain necessary foreign exchange under the Modified Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System (MLERMS). The foreign exchange is to be obtained from authorised dealer at a market determined rate.

As the requirement of foreign exchange for import of crude and petroleum products is dependent on various factors like the prevailing prices of crude and petroleum products; prevailing exchange parity of the rupee with the dollar and other factors, the likely impact on the foreign exchange reserves is not feasible to be estimated at this stage.

*158 [*Transferred to 14th May*, 1993]

Issue of bogus Railway season tickets

*159 SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some Railway officials and staff at Thane/Kalyan Railway Station on Central Railway were involved in issuance of bogus season tickets;

(b) what are the details of staff and action taken against them;

(c) what is the extent of loss incurred by Railway due to this scandal; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the official enquiring into this affair has been missing and is believed to have been killed by the gang involved in the scandal?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b) Six staff of Thane Booking Office have been found to be involved alongwith an outsider. Departmental action under D & AR rules has been initiated against the Railway Staff.

(c) Loss has not been assessed documentarily.

(d) No. Sir.

Cases of Police Brutality

*160 DR. SANJAYA SINH : SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a civil rights group has estimated that more than 70 persons have died in the police lock-ups in Delhi during the last 12 years as per the news item entitled 'Rising cases of Police Brutality' which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 22nd March, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard; and

(c) what remedial steps Government have taken/propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) Government have seen the news report under reference. The Delhi Police has reported that, as per their records, 46 persons died in Police custody during the period from 1 January, 1983 to 31 March, 1993. According to the inquests conducted by the Sub-Divisional Magistrates, there was no foul play in 26 cases.

Criminal cases were registered against policemen in 15 cases of custodial deaths. In 2 cases, departmental inquiries were initiated on the basis of the reports of the Sub-Divisional Magistrates. In one case, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate did not attribute the fatal injuries to the police and recommended further enquiry. In the remaining two cases, inquest reports from Sub-Divisional Magistrates are still awaited.

Instructions have been reiterated that persons in custody shall be treated in accordance with the law and that resort to coercive methods shall not be made. Strict action, including criminal prosecution, is taken whenever any police official is found indulging in torture or held responsible for a custodial death.

Special inputs have been introduced in the 'induction' and 'in-service' training programmes to sensitise police officers about using scientific methods for investigation.

Interrogation rooms are being relocated to make them more visible and be close to the reporting rooms so as to minimise scope for violation of these instructions.

Killings of persons and damaging of crops by wild elephants

1028. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the killings of persons and damaging of standing crops in various parts of the country by wild elephants;

(b) if so, what is the State-wise number of persons killed and total amount of crops damaged by wild elephants during the last two years;